The Ministry processes applications for financial assistance and sanctions grants under various Plan Schemes on the basis of the applicant units fulfilling the required criteria and furnishing of relevant documents. The entire budget allocation for the year 2006-07 has been utilized.

Establishment of mega food parks

†3352. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various steps being taken to establish the mega food parks in different States;

(b) whether the process of setting up mega food parks has already been initiated in some States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry has proposed a new scheme of mega food parks in the country which is envisaged to be a well defined agri/horticultural processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The proposed scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmers' income. The Ministry has initiated the process of getting conducted feasibility studies for setting up of mega food park in the country. The scheme which includes setting up of 30 Mega Food Parks with a higher level assistance of a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore each, is under consideration/consultation with Planning Commission for inclusion in the XI Five Year Plan and upon approval of the scheme, formal proposals would be invited.

Expansion of Food Processing Industries in Karnataka

3353 SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the schemes for the expansion of Food Processing Industries in the State of Karnataka which are presently in the process of execution, scheme-wise;

(b) by when each one is likely to be completed; and

(c) the reasons for delay for those pending for over one year after the time stipulated for completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas for 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for setting up/modernization/technology upgradation of food processing industries in the country. During the last five years, a total of 191 applications from food processing units were received and 64 were approved for grant in respect of the State of Karnataka. The grants from this Ministry are released in two instalments. The first instalment is released after the implementing agency has utilized 50% of their contribution and 50% of Term Loan availed. Final instalment is released on full utilization of promoter contribution and Term loan and after unit has started commercial production. The Ministry processes applications for financial assistance and sanctions grants under various Plan Schemes on the basis of the applicant units fulfilling the required criteria and furnishing of relevant documents. Delay in receipt of require documents/information from the applicant units is one of the major reasons for delay in approval of projects and release of sanctioned grant.

Supreme Court's stay on reservation

3354. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has stayed the law providing 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in higher education;